

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PIERRON TACKES

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Pierron Tackes for being selected as Nevada's Cherry Blossom Princess for the 2012 Centennial Cherry Blossom Festival. Ms. Tackes is an accomplished and ambitious student whose unwavering commitment to the Silver State embodies the very essence of what Nevada's Cherry Blossom Princess should be.

Ms. Tackes is an exemplary constituent, chosen by the Nevada State Society to represent Nevada at the National Conference of State Society's Cherry Blossom Princess Educational and Cultural Exchange Program. Nevada is proud to support one of our own as she joins young women from across the Nation in this educational and leadership forum that celebrates the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan. I am proud to recognize Ms. Tackes for her extensive community involvement, educational performance, and passion for our home State.

I join the citizens of Nevada in congratulating Ms. Tackes on this accomplishment and wish her all the best during this cultural and educational event.●

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN RANDALL

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate and honor the service of Dr. Susan Randall upon her retirement as executive director of South Dakota Voices for Children.

Dr. Randall's career began in education. She spent 2 years in Centerville, SD, as a high school English and speech teacher. Susan continued her commitment to young people by going on to work in higher education, teaching sociology. She entered the political realm after a successful bid for Sioux Falls city commissioner, a position she held from 1986 to 1988. After her time at city hall, Dr. Randall worked for Turnabout, a community organization serving South Dakota's underprivileged children and families. She furthered her dedication to the youth of South Dakota by volunteering with South Dakota Voices for Children, using her expertise to help them to secure grants. In 1999, Dr. Randall became the executive director of the organization.

Dr. Randall's 13-year tenure as executive director of South Dakota Voices for Children has been marked by many victories. She fought tenaciously to reduce teen smoking, with great success; initiated a campaign in support of Starting Strong, a prekindergarten pilot program for low-income children; and spearheaded an effort to improve conditions for juvenile offenders. Dr. Randall was recognized as a champion for South Dakota youth by the Associated School Boards of South Dakota

with their Bell Award, the highest honor that can be conferred on a non-school board member. Throughout her career Dr. Randall has been a tireless advocate for South Dakota's youth. I greatly value her advocacy and expertise and she has frequently met with me and my staff over the years, keeping me apprised of the most pressing issues facing South Dakota's children.

Dr. Randall and her husband Mark Sanderson plan to start a business growing herbs and flowers on their 80-acre property in Brookings County under the name Deer Creek Farms. I am pleased to hear that in retirement Susan will fulfill this long-held dream.

Dr. Randall has been a determined fighter for the health and well-being of South Dakota's children. I wish Dr. Randall all the best in retirement and the new business venture.●

CONGRATULATING THE FERRIS STATE BULLDOGS

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we in Michigan love hockey, at all levels, from the Detroit Red Wings of the NHL to early mornings spent at local rinks watching our kids in youth league games. But even in Michigan, at the start of the men's college hockey season last winter, few eyes were on Big Rapids, MI, where Coach Bob Daniels was preparing for his 20th season leading the Ferris State Bulldogs.

In a preseason poll, the Bulldogs were ranked ninth in the 11-team Central Collegiate Hockey Association. Ferris State had made it to the NCAA tournament only once in its history. And even in our home State, hockey teams from the larger schools tend to get more attention than the team in Big Rapids. But the players at Ferris, a campus of fewer than 15,000 students in a town of just over 10,000 residents, were determined to let neither history nor expectations get in their way. They just started winning—eight games in a row to start the season, in fact, on the way to the CCHA regular season championship, two weeks as the No. 1-ranked team in the nation, 23 victories and a berth in the NCAA tournament.

Despite a phenomenal regular season, few picked the Bulldogs to go far in the NCAA tournament. Experts pointed to the fact that the team had no players who had been drafted by the professional teams in the National Hockey League, one of only three teams in the 16-school field without an NHL draftee. Top-rated Boston College, for example, had nine. But by now, exceeding expectation was nothing new. The Bulldogs defeated the University of Denver, and then Cornell, each by a single goal, to reach the Frozen Four in Tampa.

In the national semifinals, Ferris State was locked in a tight match with Union College. The Bulldogs were behind 1-0 late in the second period when senior Aaron Schmitt scored to tie the game, and it remained tied until just under five minutes remained in the third and final period, when junior Kyle Bonis scored the go-ahead goal.

That victory set up a championship match with Boston College, the odds-on favorite for the championship. The Eagles had outscored their opponents in three previous tournament games by a combined 12 goals to 1. Again, few gave Ferris a chance. But there they were, in the waning moments of the third period, down by just a goal and battling to tie the game.

The Bulldogs fell just short. Still, it was a historic season, one that brought immense joy and considerable pride to everyone in Michigan, but especially to Big Rapids and the Ferris State family.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Coach Daniels, seniors Aaron Schmitt, Chad Billins, Derek Graham, Michael Trebish, Jordie Johnston, Brett Wysopal, Tommy Hill and Taylor Nelson; their teammates, Scott Czarnowczan, Travis White, Jason Binkley, Cory Kane, Travis Ouellette, TJ Schlueter, Nate Milam, Garrett Thompson, Eric Alexander, Andy Huff, Justin Demartino, Matthew Kirzinger, Justin Buzzee, Dom Panetta, Simon Denis, Kyle Bonis, CJ Motte and Rob Granett; coaches Drew Famulak, Mark Kaufman and Dave Cencer; and Ferris State fans everywhere. Thanks to the Bulldogs for a magical season.●

REMEMBERING MARY PHYLIS MACK CALLAN

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mary Mack, a veteran of World War II.

Mary was born in Butte, MT and graduated from Girls Central High School before attending Sacred Heart School of Nursing in Spokane, WA.

Sixty-eight years ago, Mary enlisted in the Army as a registered nurse. She was assigned to the 203rd General Field Hospital. Her mission was to provide medical support for troops staged in England as they prepared for the invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe in Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944. One month after the invasion, Mary, along with the 203rd Field Hospital, crossed the English Channel and arrived at Utah Beach in Normandy, France. From there they traveled on foot past scenes of war and destruction to set up a hospital for troops as they continued on into Europe. After the liberation of Paris in late August 1944, the 203rd established the largest general hospital in the European Theater of Operations in the French capital. There they treated over 65,000 patients.

While stationed in Paris, Mary achieved the rank of First Lieutenant. She later served in Africa and the Middle East.

Mary was honorably discharged from the Army on January 7, 1946. Because honors were made known toward the end of the war, many members of the 203rd may not have been aware of their eligibility or received their awards.

After the war, she returned to Montana where she committed herself to raising a family and serving her community.